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P L A N
OF THE
Universal Register-Office,
OPPOSITE
CECIL-STREET in the STRAND,
AND OF
That in BISHOPSGATE-STREET, the Corner
of CORNHILL.
Both by the same PROPRIETORS.



L O N D O N:
Printed in the Year MDCCLII.

[Price Three-pence]



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To the READER.

AS this Office has been carried on two Years with great Success, the vast Variety of Business that is daily transacted there, occasions the meeting of many Persons at the same time, on different Accounts; some of whom are obliged to wait till others are dispatched before they can communicate their Wants, which often causes a disagreeable Delay: The Proprietors therefore of this most useful Undertaking would think themselves much obliged to all who apply to them, if they would bring a particular Description in Writing of the Person or Thing wanted with them to the Office; for this would create Dispatch, prevent unnecessary Questions, and make the supplying their Wants easy to themselves and to the Proprietors.

John Fielding,

One of the Proprietors of the
Universal Register-Office.

N. B. No Description can be too particular.

TO THE READER



A
P L A N
O F T H E
Universal Register-Office.



A N is said to be by Nature a social Animal, and this principally appears from two Reasons; first, for that Society alone affords an Opportunity of exerting all the human Faculties; and secondly, as it alone can provide for all the Wants of which our Nature is susceptible. In Society alone, Men can mutually enjoy the Benefit of that vast Variety of Talents with which they are severally endowed; the Members of the Body Corporate, like those of the Natural Body, having their several Uses and Qualifications, all jointly contributing to the Good of the Whole.

If any Society ever hath been, or ever can be so regulated, that no Talent in any of its Members, which is capable of contributing to

the general Good, should lie idle and unemployed, nor any of the Wants of its Members which are capable of Relief, should remain unrelieved, that Society might be said to have attained its utmost Perfection. Of this absolute Degree of Perfection, *Aristotle* seems to think it capable; and if this hath never been in fact attained, the Reason, perhaps, is neither very difficult to assign or to remove.

Before I proceed to the proposed Plan, I shall lay down two Positions as certain.

First, that in Proportion to the Opulence of any Society, the Wants of its Members will be multiplied; and secondly, the more numerous its Members are, the less Likelihood will there be that any of these Wants should remain unsupplied.

The former of these Positions may, perhaps, at first have the Air of a Paradox; but if we consider it in the Case of an individual Person, its Truth will immediately appear; for here we shall plainly perceive his Wants encreasing with his Riches. Inasmuch that the Wants of a Man worth a single Thousand Pounds bear no Proportion to those of him who is possessed of a hundred times that Sum. The Ethic Writer, indeed, will tell me, that none of these Wants arise from Nature. But let them arise from what they will, they are real, and to supply them is as essential to the Happiness of him who hath, or thinks he hath them, as it is to a Savage to supply any of those few Necessities with which a State of Nature,

Nature, as some call it, abounds. And yet, with respect to the Philosopher, I shall not doubt to declare the Man with his hundred thousand Pounds in his Pocket, with all his Wants about him, and at the same Time, with a Capacity of supplying all these Wants, to be a much happier Being, than any poor *Diogenes* whatever.

Now Society itself alone creates all these Wants, and at the same Time alone gives us the Methods of supplying them by the Invention of what is called Trade or Traffick. And yet as Societies of Men encreased into great and populous Cities and large extended Countries, the Politician found something still wanting ; and this was a Method of communicating the various Wants and Talents of the Members to each other ; by which Means they might be mutually supplied. Hence the Invention of Fairs, Markets, Exchanges, and all other Publick Meetings for carrying on Traffick and Commerce between Men, in which the common and ordinary Wants of the Society are from Time to Time provided for.

All these Methods, however, are so far defective, as they fail to be universal ; for to the Perfections of a Society it is required, that none of the various Talents of the Members shall remain unknown and unemployed, nor any of their Wants unsupplied. This, as it seems, can only be attained, by providing some Place of universal Resort, where all the

Members of the Society may communicate all their mutual Wants and Talents to each other. So that no Person may want what another is capable of supplying him with, provided he is able and willing to pay the Price.

In large and populous Cities, and wide extended Communities, it is most probable that every human Talent is dispersed somewhere or other among the Members; and consequently every Person who stands in Need of that Talent, might supply his Want, if he knew where to find it; but to know this is the Difficulty, and this Difficulty still increases with the Largeness of the Society. Let us illustrate this by the Case of a Shopkeeper, who deals in various Commodities: The more Goods he hath in his Warehouse, unless they are so disposed that he can easily find them, the greater is his Confusion and Inability to satisfy the Demands of his Customers.

The ingenious *Montaigne*, in his 34th Essay, has the following Passage:

“ My Father, who, for a Man that had
 “ no other Advantages, than Experience only,
 “ and his own natural Parts, was nevertheless
 “ of a very clear Judgment, has formerly
 “ told me, that he once had Thoughts of
 “ endeavouring to introduce this Practice;
 “ that there might be in every City a certain
 “ Place

“ Place assigned, to which, such as stood
 “ in Need of any thing might repair, and
 “ have their Business entered by an Officer
 “ appointed for that Purpose. As for Ex-
 “ ample, one enquires for a Chapman to buy
 “ my Pearl : I enquire for one that has Pearls
 “ to sell : Such a one wants Company to go
 “ to *Paris* : Such a one enquires for a Ser-
 “ vant of such a Quality : Such a one for a
 “ Master ; such a one enquires for such an
 “ Artificer, some for one Thing, some for
 “ another, every one according to what he
 “ wants. And doubtless these mutual Re-
 “ gisters would be of no contemptible
 “ Advantage to the publick Correspondency
 “ and Intelligence : For there are evermore
 “ Conditions that hunt after one another,
 “ and for want of knowing one another’s
 “ Occasions, leave Men in very great Ne-
 “ cessity.”

Upon these Principles an Office was erect-
 ed on *February 19, 1749*, in the *Strand*,
 near *Southampton-street*, opposite *Cecil-street*,
 and has been since carried on by a Society
 of Gentlemen of Honour and Abilities. The
 Design of which Office is to bring the World,
 as it were, together into one Place. Here
 the Buyer and the Seller, the Tutor and the
 Pupil, the Master, the Scholar and Usher,
 the Rector and Curate, the Man of Taste
 and the ingenious Artificer, the Virtuoso with
 Curiosities, the Traveller and a Companion,
 the

the Tradesman and Partner, the Master and Apprentice, or Book-keeper, the Master and the Servant, &c. are sure to meet : Here ingenious Persons of all Kinds will meet with those who are ready to employ them, and the Curious will be supplied with every thing which it is in the Power of Art to produce. In a Word, no useful Talent in the Society will be idle, nor will any Man long want a Seller and Purchaser of what he is desirous either to purchase or dispose of ; whereas at present many a Man is starving, while in the Possession of Talents, which would be highly serviceable to others, who could and would well reward him, and several Persons are possessed of divers Goods and Curiosities, which others are in vain enquiring after. Servants who can have the best of Characters remain out of Place, while Gentlemen are obliged in haste to accept of Persons very slightly recommended : In the same manner the Buyer and the Seller are groping after each other in the Dark, and often, after great Expence of Time, Trouble, and Money, to no manner of Purpose. But without endeavouring to recommend a Scheme to the Public, from which they will manifestly receive so much Benefit, I shall here explain to them the Nature and Plan of this Office, under every particular Article already opened.

I. In the Register of Estates to be sold, are set down the Quantity and Quality of the Estate, *viz.* whether Freehold, Leasehold, Copyhold ; whether in Manors, Lands, Houses, Rents, &c. the County in which it lies, the nearest City or Market Town, with the Price and every other Particular by which the Seller thinks proper to recommend it, either with or without the Parish in which it lies, and with or without the Name of the Estate, or of the Seller, at his Option. This is done at the Price of One Shilling. Now, at the Price of Three pence only, any Gentleman who wants to buy an Estate in any County, in *Yorkshire* for Instance, naming the Nature of the Estate which he would purchase, is in a Minute informed whether there be any such Estate registered ; and if not, for One Shilling more his Direction is entered in the Office, and an Account immediately sent to him the Moment any thing like what he requires is offered to be registered.

Thus the two Principals, or their immediate Agents, are at once brought together, I think I may say at no Expence at all, without the Danger and Costs of employing Jobbers, or disparaging an Estate by a public Advertisement, which though it costs from four to twenty times as much, lasts but a Day ; and which, though it exposes a Man's Circumstances to all his Neighbours, escapes per-

perhaps the Observation of the very Person for whom it was designed.

II. In the Article of Lodgings, Estates, or Houses to let, we register, if it be an Estate, its Nature, Quantity, Rent, Situation, &c. If a House or Lodgings, we set it down whether furnished or unfurnished, and Number of Rooms. If in Town, the Street in which the House stands, with all its Conveniencies: If in the Country, the Town or Parish; whether any and what Garden; whether Outhouses; the Situation, Prospect, Accommodations for Travelling; with every other Particular mentioned, and the Rent if permitted. For this we require no more than Six-pence, unless the Description is long, and Three-pence from the Enquirer, as before.

The public Utility of this Article is almost too obvious to be pointed out. Many Persons will, at the Price of Six-pence, prevent the losing Weeks, Months, and sometimes a whole Season in letting their Lodgings; as on the other hand, Gentlemen and Ladies may in a Minute's Time survey all the Houses and Lodgings which are to be let in several Streets in *London* and *Westminster*, and in a whole Parish or Town in the Country. For want of which Conveniency, they are at present obliged either to take long fruitless Walks and Rides themselves, or to trust to the Taste (too much perhaps sometimes to the Fidelity) of an Acquaintance, or a Servant; and after having contracted for a disagree-

agreeable Situation, discover to their Sorrow that they have missed the Place in which they would have been accommodated entirely to their Satisfaction. And as there are many Families both in Town and Country, to which Boarders would be very acceptable, either for the Sake of their Company, or for other Reasons, this Article is also registered here: Nor is this of less Use than the rest; for there are many single Persons of small Fortunes who would be glad to be admitted into decent regular Families on this Footing.

Under the 3d Article are registered all Manner of Securities for Money, whether Real or Personal; and also the Names of those who have large or smaller Sums to dispose of; so that the Borrower or Lender are at once brought together, without Expence or Delay, and at the same time with the utmost Secrecy; for this Article may be transacted in the Office without either of the Clerks or Proprietors knowing the Name of the Borrower. And as several Persons who are willing to advance small Sums on personal Securities, on very reasonable Terms, are registered, so those who want to borrow may be assured, if they cannot be supplied here, they will fail every where else. Insurances for Lives, for one or more Years, may be procured here, as likewise of Ships and Merchandizes.

IV. Places and Employments to be sold, or anywise disposed of, whether Ecclesiastical, Civil, or Military ; such as Chaplainships, Curacies, Patent-places, or others which the Possessor can obtain Leave to dispose of, in any Branch of the Civil Government, and Commissions of all Kinds in the Army. So that without having their Names hawked about by Jobbers, and obliged to pay great Præmiums if they succeed ; their Intentions to dispose of a Place or Commission, are known only to those who are desirous to treat with them for the same ; and no Expence or Reward whatever is to attend the Consummation of the Bargain.

V. Apprentices who want Masters in any Trade, and Masters who want Apprentices. Here the Trade chosen, the Age and Qualifications of the Youth, the Money to be given, and the Terms required are entered. So that for One Shilling a Master may have the choice of a hundred Apprentices, and a Parent of as many Masters for his Child.

VI. Masters and Mistresses who teach any Science or Art : If they keep a School, its Situation is registered, what they teach, what their Price, &c. If they are willing to teach Abroad ; their several Recommendations ; what they teach ; as Languages, Music, Dancing, Fencing, &c. Their Prices, &c.

VII. Partners in Trade. The Sums ready to be advanced, and Conditions ; with every Particular.

VIII. Servants of all Kinds, such as Riders, Book-keepers, and Journeymen, Stewards and Clerks ; Domestic Servants, as House-Stewards, Gentlemen, Valets, Butlers, Cooks, Gardeners, Coachmen, Footmen, Grooms, Postilions, &c. Governesses, Housekeepers, Waiting-maids, Cook-maids, House-maids, Laundry-maids, Dry and Wet Nurfses, &c. &c. Under this Head are inserted the Name, Place of Abode, Qualification, Age, married or single, whether had the Small-Pox, what Place lived in last, and how long, when left it, and the Reasons why ; with every Particular of their Characters, and by whom to be given. And the Public may be assured, that the utmost Care will be taken to prevent any Imposition ; and that none will be registered in this Office who give the least suspicious Account of themselves, and who have lived in any disreputable Places. The great Use this Article alone will be of to the Public, is submitted to their Consideration ; for the Fidelity with which it is executed, we may appeal to the Experience of Hundreds who have already been supplied at the Office ; from many of whom we have received Letters of Thanks, and not from any single Person one just Complaint. We, however, take this Opportunity

portunity, to desire all Gentlemen and Ladies who turn away Servants for any gross Fault, to put themselves to the Expence of a Penny-post Letter to the Office, and we faithfully promise that no such Servant shall be registered there.

IX. All manner of Goods are here registered; and we desire Tradesmen would consider whether it might not be of great Use to them to send Bills of their Shops to the Office. Second-hand Goods are here likewise registered, particularly all Kinds of Vehicles, as Coaches, Landaus, Post and other Chaises. Likewise all manner of Animals for Use or Pleasure, as Horses, Dogs, Wild Beasts, Birds, &c. And Curiosities of every Kind.

X. Lastly, Conveniencies for Travelling in all Manners by Sea or Land. Ships; whether bound, and when depart, with the Terms for Passengers. Stage Coaches; the Inns they put up; the Days and Hours they depart and arrive at, with their Prices. Bye and returned Coaches for *Bath*, and all other Places; when expected to arrive; when set out; and their Prices. Likewise all Methods of conveying Goods, either by Land or Water Carriage; Companions for Post-Chaises, &c.

This Article, surely, needs neither Explanation nor Recommendation. How advantageous on the one hand must it be to Captains

tains of Ships and Masters of Stage or Bye Coaches, at so trifling a Cost as Six-pence, to be certain of never missing a Passenger; as on the other hand, how infinitely easy must it be to the Public, by the Trouble of sending to a Place, which as it is in the very Middle of the Town, cannot be far off, and at the Price of Three-pence, to know every Convenience of Travelling to the Place they are destined to!

These are the principal Articles already opened in this Office, to which such Additions are daily made as would be tedious to enumerate. We may therefore say upon the whole, that be the Wants of Persons ever so singular or extraordinary, 'tis highly probable they may have them supplied by enquiring at this Office; and we doubt not but the Public will give all due Encouragement to an Undertaking so visibly calculated for their Good; and which proposes to serve them at so cheap a Rate.

On our Side, they may be assured, that as the Proprietors of this Office are Gentlemen, and Men experienced in Business; so it will be executed with the utmost Care, Regularity, and Fidelity, and as much Secrecy always as shall be desired by the Parties themselves.

The great Utility of this Office, when its Correspondence is become universal, must be apparent to every one. Indeed, its Use

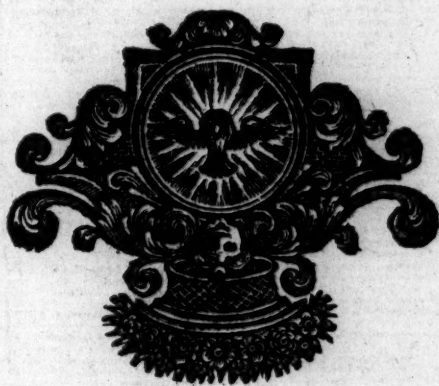
consists chiefly in its Universality, and this is entirely in the Power of the Public. In this, therefore, as in every Scheme for the Common Good, if the Wise and Public-spirited will take the Lead, they will be sure of being followed by all the rest.



ALL Ladies and Gentlemen who have occasion for our Assistance in any Particular, are desired at first to come to the Office themselves, where they will find proper Rooms for their Accommodations, and proper Persons to attend them ; for it is necessary to be very exact in the Description of the Thing wanted, especially Servants, in order to be properly supplied ; and the doing this by Messengers and Letters has occasioned great Confusion : Tho' when the Public are once acquainted with the Method of transacting Business here, it may be done with as much Ease by Letter as by their Presence. One Proprietor, with the Clerks, attend at this Office from Nine in the Morning till Seven in the Evening.

N. B. This

N. B. This Office corresponds with that in *Ireland*; by which Means, all Persons who have Business to transact there, may execute it by Application here. The Public are desired to take Notice, that all other Offices in this Kingdom, built on this Plan, have been erected long since ours, and are Counterfeits.



M. B. This Office corresponds with that in
 London; by which Means, all Per-
 sons who have Business to transact
 there, may execute it by Application
 here. The Public are desired to
 take Notice, that the Office in
 this Kingdom, built on this Plan,
 have been erected long since, and
 are Counters.

